

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3374

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4824

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

REF: USNATO 4578 (NOTAL)

DEPARTMENT FOR M AND EUR/RPM ONLY

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE ADDRESSES SEVERAL NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NAA) TOPICS RELATED TO THE ASSEMBLY'S 21ST ANNUAL SESSION IN COPENHAGEN SEPTEMBER 21-26, INCLUDING:

- A) NAA SYG DESHORMES' SEPT 7-9 VISIT TO WASHINGTON,
- B) A PROPOSAL TO MORE CLOSELY ENGAGE NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NAA ACTIVITIES, AND
- C) SUGGESTION THAT A USNATO POLITICAL OFFICER ATTEND THE NAA COPENHAGEN MEETING TO ASSIST IN COORDINATION AND SUBSTANTIVE COVERAGE.

END SUMMARY:

1. REFTEL INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT PHILIPPE DESHORMES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON SEPT 7-9 AND THAT DESHORMES INTENDED TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION TO THE FORTHCOMING COPENHAGEN ANNUAL SESSION, DESHORMES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS, AS REFTEL INDICATED, STEPS TO UPGRADE AND FORMALIZE THE STATUS OF THE NAA VIS-A-VIS ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE RECENTLY GAVE US COPIES OF TWO CONFIDENTIAL
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DRAFT DOCUMENTS WHICH HE THOUGHT HAD ALREADY BEEN SHOWN INFORMALLY TO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AT THE INSISTENCE OF CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYES, THE NAA PRESIDENT. THE DOCUMENTS, TEXTS OF WHICH

ARE SET FORTH AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE, ARE:

- A) A DRAFT LETTER CONGRESSMAN HAYES WOULD SEND TO THE SECRETARY TO ENLIST THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR MORE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY GOVERNMENTS FOR THE NAA; AND
- B) A DRAFT STATEMENT THE SECRETARY MIGHT MAKE TO EXPRESS SUCH SUPPORT.

IN CONNECTION WITH THESE TEXTS, THE US HAS LONG SUPPORTED INCREASED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM ALLIED COUNTRIES FOR THE NAA AND HAS FAVORED STEPS TO ASSOCIATE THE NAA MORE FORMALLY WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. IN PRINCIPLE, THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THE US CAN ENDORSE THE AIMS OF TH NAA'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS, THOUGH WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ADVISE ON THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT ACCORD.

2. DESHORMES ALSO IS CONSIDERING DISCUSSING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MEANS OF INCREASING AND IMPROVING CONTACTS BETWEEN NATO PERMANENT REPS AND NAA PARLIAMENTARIANS. EACH YEAR GENERAL INVITATIONS ARE EXTENDED TO NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND NAA ANNUAL SESSIONS. THE INVITATIONS CENTER UPON ATTENDANCE AT THE PLENARY MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS SURROUNDING THE ANNUAL PROGRAM. WHILE THEY ALSO INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS THAT AMBASSADORS MIGHT ALSO WISH TO ATTEND OR SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO NAA COMMITTEE MEETINGS (WHERE MOST OF THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK IS DONE), THERE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN NO FORMAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THE PERMANENT REPS. AS A RESULT, AMBASSADORS HAVE FOUND ATTENDANCE AT NAA ANNUAL SESSIONS TO BELARGELY CEREMONIAL; AND GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF COMPETING DEMANDS FOR AMBASSADORIAL TIME AND ATTENTION, NATO PERMAMENT REPS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO ATTEND NAA ANNUAL SESSIONS.

3. IN OUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH DESHORMES, HE HAS SOUGHT ADVICE ON WAYS TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE PROPOSED TO HIM INFORMALLY THAT THE NAA CONSIDER INCLUDING IN ITS ANNUAL MAJOR PROGRAMS, AND PERHAPS ALSO INTO ITS SEMI-ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING PROGRAMS, A SPECIFIC PERIOD, PERHAPS A DAY OR A HALF-DAY, FOR A CONFIDENTIAL
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REGULAR MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES. SUCH MEETINGS ON A HIGHLY INFORMAL AND OFF-THE-RECORD BASIS PERHAPS EMPLOYING A SEMINAR-TYPE APPROACH TO DISCUSSIONS, COULD BE MUTUALLY INSTRUCTIVE IF THEIR OBJECT WAS A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. DESHORMES EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THE PROPOSAL COULD NOT BE WORKED INTO THE COPENHAGEN MEETING AS PLANNING WAS TOO FAR ADVANCED. HE SPECIFICALLY SAID HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE IDEA, HOWEVER, WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE NAA ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 14-20, 1976 AT WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

4. FINALLY, IN ORDER TO HAVE AVAILABLE IN COPENHAGEN AN OFFICER FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE RANGE OF NATO AND NAA ISSUES, WE PROPOSE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE OUR DETAILING A USNATO OFFICER FROM THE USNATO POLITICAL SECTION TO COPENHAGEN TO BE ON HAND FOR THE NAA ANNUAL SESSION. HE ALSO COULD ASSIST EMBASSY COPENHAGEN WITH SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ON THE NAA MEETING. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, WOULD APPRECIATE FISCAL DATA TO BE USED IN ISSUING ORDERS.

5. BEGIN TEXT OF NAA DRAFT LETTER TO THE SECRETARY:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4824

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THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY HAS ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE TO SEEK WAYS OF ACHIEVING MORE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ASSEMBLY FROM MEMBER PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS. AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, I AM A MEMBER OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

AS YOU MAY RECALL, A JOINT RESOLUTION WAS PASSED IN THE CONGRESS IN 1956 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE UNITED STATES IN WHAT WAS KNOWN THEN AS THE "NATO PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE". SINCE THAT TIME, THE RESOLUTION HAS BEEN REGULARLY AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAVE BEEN REGULAR AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIVITIES.

THE ASSEMBLY STANDS OUT AS THE ONLY OFFICIAL TRANS-ATLANTIC PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZED BY THE CONGRESS. MOREOVER, THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY TIES WAS REAFFIRMED IN PARA 13 OF THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION OF JUNE 1974.

SECURING SUCH OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IS THE REASON FOR THE CREATION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE. THE MEMBERS PLAN TO MAKE A SERIES OF VISITS TO NATIONAL CAPITALS IN ORDER TO SEEK ADVICE FROM GOVERNMENTAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES ON THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY CAN EXTEND TO THE ASSEMBLY A MORE FORMAL

STATUS THAN PRESENTLY EXISTS. WHILE SOME PARLIAMENTS, FOR
EXAMPLE, DO REGARD THE ASSEMBLY AS AN OFFICIAL BODY AND SELECT
THEIR DELEGATES ACCORDINGLY, OTHERS TEND TO VIEW IT AS MERELY
AN INFORMAL ASSOCIATION. THUS, MORE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WOULD
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ENHANCE THE STANDING OF BOTH THE ASSEMBLY AND ITS MEMBERSHIP.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A VISIT WILL BE MADE IN THE SUMMER
TO BONN, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE AND LUXEMBOURG.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE MISSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE,
IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION
COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A STATEMENT ENDORSEING THE ASSEMBLY,
FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AUTHORITY,
SUCH AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE PREPARED FOR
YOUR CONSIDERATION, A DRAFT TEXT WHICH COULD SERVE AS A MODEL
FOR ANY MESSAGE YOU WOULD CARE TO SEND: WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT
THIS ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO EACH GOVERNMENT JUST
PRIOR TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S VISIT. END TEXT.

6 BEGIN TEXT OF NAA DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY:

IT HAS BEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO FULLY SUPPORT
THE EXISTENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY,
WHERE MEMBERS OF THE 15 PARLIAMENTS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALL-
IANCE MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED.

I UNDERSTAND THE OFFICERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, IN-
CLUDING CONGRESSMAN WAYNE L. HAYS, ITS PRESENT PRESIDENT, WILL
SOON VISIT YOU TO EVALUATE THE EXTENT OF THE SUPPORT YOUR GOVER-
NMENT IS PREPARED TO BRING TO THE ASSEMBLY BEING MADE AN OFFICIAL
PART OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTION YOUR
GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE IN THIS REGARD. IT WILL ALSO NOTE WITH INTER-
EST ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT YOU WILL MAKE ON THE SUBJECT.
END TEXT:

7. ACTION: A) REQUEST RESPONSE RE USNATO OFFICER TDY IN COPEN-
HAGEN,
B) WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES OF ANY MEMCONS
OR OTHER REPORTS ON DESHORMES' DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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